

is sadly in want of a generally accepted definition fitted to give a clear idea of its scope. But though this definition is lacking, the handling of the subject is coming to be more and more in accordance with the idea that the governing function of geography is to indicate the nature and relative importance of the influences exercised on the life of the globe, especially human life, by local conditions and place relations. It is evident that this idea has been implicitly in the minds of the authors in the preparation of some parts of the book, but it is equally evident that the idea has never been expressly recognised by them, and accordingly it has not been consistently acted on. One result is that a good deal is admitted into the book which has no place in geography, but a still more serious result is that again and again the practical guidance stops short of the goal to which the learners should have been led.

Some examples may be given. Inevitably the work lays stress on map-making and the observations on which maps are based. Maps being necessary in the study of geography, boys and girls must be got to understand as clearly as possible how far those records of the facts which have to be studied serve in place of the actual facts, and in what points they are apt to mislead. Now, while there is much that is admirable in what is said, shown, and hinted on pp. 51-72 on hachures and contours, there is no hint of what hachures and contours respectively fail to represent. The subject of projections is rightly dealt with, for within due limits it is not beyond the reach of school children. But here the failure is more striking. The only reason for taking up this subject is to get the learners to understand how inevitably any projection must fail to represent the truth in some points, to perceive in each case the chief failures, and to discern the reasons for using certain projections in spite of their defects. But on these points no hint is given. The principle of the construction of what is called Mercator's projection is described, but, strangely enough, no question is put with the view of getting those who use the book to recognise its obvious faults, and no indication is furnished of its compensating utilities. This, indeed, would have been impossible, at least in the case of its utility for marine charts, inasmuch as the projection described is not Mercator's, but the useless central cylindrical. So, too, the projection described as the conical is not the conical, and is, in fact, no used projection whatever.

To take another subject, under the heading of isotherms and parallels of latitude we have on pp. 227 and 228 a large number of average mean temperatures for the months of January and July, but for different places, thus failing to afford an opportunity for comparing ranges of temperature. Then again, under the heading of aspect and temperature, pp. 241-3, the important subject of the difference of temperature between the east and west of the northern oceans and land-masses is dealt with, but is illustrated only by certain figures from Hann presenting this difference in the least instructive light, in the manner which fails to bring out the difference which is of most

practical importance to the inhabitants of the earth. The figures show only the difference in the mean annual range of temperature, and do not indicate that this difference is brought about in every case in a greatly preponderant degree by the varying range of the winter temperatures.

Such defects are worth pointing out, chiefly because the book is on the whole so good that one cannot help earnestly wishing that it were better, and because it may be hoped that they will be removed in a future edition. Even as it is, it must be recognised that the immense pains taken by the authors have resulted in the preparation of a work which is full of suggestiveness, and ought to supply a countless number of useful hints to capable teachers of geography.

GEO. G. CHISHOLM.

FOLKLORE AND MEDICINE OF THE ZULU-KAFIR.

Bantu Folklore (Medical and General). By Dr. Matthew L. Hewat. Pp. 112. (Cape Town: T. M. Miller; London: J. and A. Churchill, n.d.)

THIS is an interesting little work. It will be of value to students of primitive races. It deals chiefly with the ideas of the South African Kafir tribes on the subject of magic, medicine, diseases, and initiation ceremonies. Incidentally it gives a great insight into the extraordinary mixture of superstition, quackery, and practical research in native medicine. The Kafirs are nearly always at fault in their guesses as to the origin of diseases. Some maladies are thought to be caused by the supernatural influence of snakes or of water monsters, half man and half animal, or by the strange bird called impundulu, which by some is thought to be the origin of lightning. Other diseases are attributed to direct poisoning—the word for poison, *ubuti*, being a very old Bantu root that means the “essence of the tree.” This is a word that in many Bantu languages means medicine quite as much as poison, all the medicines of primitive man having been derived from the bark, sap, fruit, or leaves of trees. Some of the “snakes” alluded to by the author as the cause of intestinal diseases (in the native mind) are evidently distorted accounts of guinea-worm or tape-worm.

The king or chief of the tribe is theoretically regarded as the first amongst the local medicine men. Professional doctors, however, may be of either sex. They are often divided into the following classes: (1) Witch doctors—diviners, mesmerists, prophets, or secret service agents, “faith-healers,” and masseurs. The last-named type of witch doctor is the only one that performs any good service. Like most negro races, the Kafirs believe greatly in the efficacy of massage. (2) The surgeon or bone-setter, who also practises cupping. (3) The physician or herb doctor. In addition there are two special classes of medicine men, who attend to the bringing of rain or the prediction and direction of warlike operations. Very great misery and loss of life were caused until quite recently by the witch-hunting practices of the medicine men. These priests often became petty tyrants, in-

producing a tyranny as hateful as that of the Holy Inquisition by their witch-smelling practices.

As regards the use of herbs, it is pointed out that the natives are in the possession of many valuable drugs. Amongst these they have been for generations in the habit of using a decoction of the leaves of the Cape willow for the cure of rheumatic pains, thus preceding Europe in an appreciation of the curative properties of salicin. A list of all the diseases to which Kafir man, woman, and child are liable is given, together with their native names, and the remedies which the natives so successfully apply. There is a chapter on midwifery and the rearing of infants, which leaves one surprised that the Kafir race has not long since come to an end by indirect infanticide. The extraordinary treatment of newly-born children may act as a kind of spur to the survival of the fittest; it most certainly kills out weakly children. The newly-born baby is "bled at the point of the fingers for luck; then held in the smoke of a slow fire till it sneezes or coughs, to show that it is not bewitched. It is then thoroughly rubbed all over with a solution of cow-dung," and so forth. Instead of being allowed to suck at the breast, it is fed at first on sour cow's milk, which is "forced down the throat of the poor little mortal by blowing into its mouth and compelling it to swallow."

Notes are given as to the operations performed on girls in the initiation schools (the elongation of the *labia minora*), and also in regard to the circumcision of the males.

The introduction to the book contains a useful summary of Kafir history, but is marked, like nearly all the writing that comes from South Africa, by a curious ignorance of Bantu history north of the Zambezi.

H. H. JOHNSTON.

OUR BOOK SHELF.

Sociological Papers. Vol. ii., 1905. Pp. xiii+312. Published for the Sociological Society. (London: Macmillan and Co., Ltd., 1906.) Price 10s. 6d.

THOUGH hardly equal in interest to its precursor, the present volume contains some valuable contributions to sociology. First, and foremost in interest and importance, comes a paper on eugenics by Mr. Francis Galton. He argues that man, whether civilised or barbarian, has submitted to restrictions in marriage, and, therefore, that a new restriction in accordance with eugenics may be imposed. Mankind has borne the yoke of monogamy, endogamy, exogamy. He has recognised prohibited degrees of kinship. Why cannot a new taboo be started? Dr. Haddon adduces an argument that is much to the point: the world is becoming self-conscious and modern civilisation has at command great resources for bringing about a revolution in men's views and practice. Dr. Max Nordau thinks the proposals impractical. Modern restrictions would have no religious sanction, and would therefore fail. He would trust more to an improvement of the environment than to eugenics. There are many medical men who, like Dr. Max Nordau, think that environment is everything. Prof. Tönnies fears that *mariages de convenance* and *mariages de passion* will continue in spite of eugenics. Lady Welby sees the difficulty of considering the interests of the race and at the same

time making the most of the individual. Mr. Galton, whose enthusiasm compels admiration, answers the main objections forcibly.

Among the other papers are the following:—Civics, by Prof. Geddes (he argues for evolutionary sociology and for a civics exhibition); The school in some of its relations to social organisation and to national life, by Prof. M. E. Sadler (he urges that scope be left for "group effort and private enterprise in education"); The influence of magic on social relationships, by Dr. E. Westermarck; On the relation between sociology and ethics, by Prof. Höffding; Some guiding principles in the philosophy of history, by Dr. J. H. Bridges; Sociological studies, by Mr. J. S. Stuart-Glennie.

F. W. H.

The Heart of a Garden. By Rosamund Marriott Watson. Pp. 162. (London: Alexander Moring, Ltd., The De La More Press, 1906.) Price 7s. 6d. net.

THE title of this book is significant. The reader is not led to expect cultural details or botanical technicalities. To use a vulgarism, "science is not in it." What we have is a record of musings, such as would suggest themselves at each successive season, to one more concerned with the poetry and beauty of nature than with its philosophy. Notwithstanding this, the author shows herself a careful observer and a skilful delineator. Take, for instance, this account of the winter aconite (*Eranthis*). The writer is descanting on the promise of early spring, and goes on to say:—

"And even flowers are not wanting; multitudes of small, gold heads have shyly thrust themselves up through the dark earth, wrapped closely about in their green hoods which, as the sun grows warmer, they will fling back to do service as jaunty fringed capes."

This is not a botanical description; nevertheless, there is no mistaking what flower the writer had in view. The lady, with most other people, has her likes and her dislikes, and her ideals are not those of her gardener. Still, that functionary is paid to do certain work, and it is difficult to see how he can fulfil his duties properly if "milk-white pigeons with the roseate feet" are allowed to gratify their proclivities among the sweet peas and the gooseberries, and other culprits are permitted to make havoc with the strawberries.

Be this as it may, the author contrives to get a continuous feast of pleasure from the garden of which she writes, and by her cheery optimism and the elegance of her narrative affords the reader a share of the gratification she herself experiences. Dainty lyrics enliven the text. Even the pug-dog "Momo-taro" is immortalised, though the invocation to him, "Hued like the full moon of the apricot," strikes us as peculiar. What sort of apricots can they be that possess full moons? In a work of this kind, however, allowance must be made for poetic imaginings. The illustrations are numerous and well executed. The book throughout is pleasantly written, and attractive to the eye.

Methods in Microscopical Research—Vegetable Histology. By Abraham Flatters. Pp. x+116. (Manchester and London: Sherratt and Hughes.) Price 21s. net.

THIS work is designed to give a course of instruction in the practical working out of the internal structure of a number of higher types belonging to the vegetable kingdom, and should admirably fulfil this purpose. The earlier portion deals with the general preparation of specimens, collection, fixation, and preservation; instruments and section cutting; staining and mount-